

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Review and reconsideration of the Final Office Action is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim 1 has been amended. Support for the amendment may be found, for example, at paragraph 17 of the specification as filed and in the previous Claim 5. Accordingly, Claim 5 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Care has been taken to ensure that no new matter has been added, and entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.

Office Action

Turning now to the Office Action, Claims 1, 3 and 5-10 stand rejected as being allegedly unpatentable for obviousness over EP0243516 in view of St. Eve (U.S. Patent 3,890,083).

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection in view of the amendments herein.

As noted at paragraph 17 of the specification, it is a particular advantage of the present invention that it provides sealing means that automatically produce a larger sealing effect with increased pressure load. The sealing action of the sealing means can increase over a large pressure range proportionally with or dependent on the pressure, such that it is not necessary to apply mechanical forces to adjust a seal to the maximum expected pressure load, since the sealing means itself automatically adjusts its sealing action to the pressure load. Liquid material, which exists in the event of a leak, exert a pressure on the geometrical shape of the seal, which leads to a

stronger pressing of the sealing surfaces of the seal onto the surrounding device portions so that leaks are sealed. Ductile metals can also be used for the seals. For example, copper, tin or the like can be used.

In accordance with the above description of the invention, Claim 1 is amended herein to include "wherein the sealing means automatically develops larger sealing force or action upon the application of an increased pressure load."

Applicant notes that neither of the references taken alone or in combination teaches the present invention.

As stated by the Examiner at page 3, last line, of the present Office Action, EP0243516 fails to teach the sealing means of the (unamended) claims. Still less does EP0243516 teach or suggest a sealing means "wherein the sealing means automatically develops larger sealing force or action upon the application of an increased pressure load."

The Examiner cites the gaskets 111 of St. Eve as capable of developing a larger sealing pressure if the mounting screws of the apparatus are tightened. Even if this is so, St. Eve does not teach or suggest the sealing means of Claim 1 as amended herein because there is no teaching in St. Eve of how the tension of the mounting screws could automatically develop larger sealing force or action upon the application of an increased pressure load. As stated above, it is an advantage of the present invention compared to the prior art that it is not necessary to apply mechanical forces to adjust a seal to the maximum expected pressure load, since the sealing means itself automatically adjusts its sealing action to the pressure load.

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This practical benefit is not taught or suggested by either EP0243516 or St. Eve.

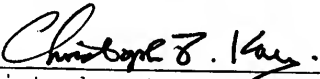
Therefore, the combination of EP0243516 and St. Eve cannot render the presently claimed invention obvious because not all of the elements of the claims are taught or suggested.

Finally, the Examiner has not provided any motivation or reasonable expectation of success whereby one of ordinary skill in the art would have adapted the essentially static sealing means of St. Eve to the extrusion apparatus of EP0243516 to arrive at a sealing means "wherein the sealing means automatically develops larger sealing force or action upon the application of an increased pressure load."

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Favorable consideration and early issuance of the Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. Should further issues remain prior to allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the indicated telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: **April 28, 2004**

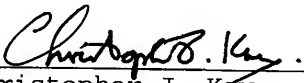
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING AND AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE

I hereby certify that the foregoing AMENDMENT B for U.S. Application No. 10/022,576 filed December 17, 2001, were deposited in first class U.S. mail, postage prepaid, Mail Stop: AF, Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450, on **April 28, 2004**.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application, except for the issue fee, without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 16-0877.



Christopher J. Kay